

RESEARCH CAREER AWARD REFERENCE GUIDELINES (*Series K*)

RCA Reference Report

Application Submission Deadline: _____

Title of Award: _____ Type of Award: _____

Name of Candidate (*Last, first, middle*): _____Name of Respondent (*Last, first, middle*): _____

The candidate is applying to the National Institutes of Health for a Research Career Award (RCA). The purpose of this award is to develop the research capabilities and career of the applicant. These awards provide up to five years of salary support and guarantee them the ability to devote at least 75–80 percent of their time to research for the duration of the award. Many of these awards also provide funds for research and career development costs. The award is available to persons who have demonstrated considerable potential to become independent researchers, but who need additional supervised research experience in a productive scientific setting.

We would appreciate receiving your evaluation of the above candidate with special reference to:

- potential for conducting research;
- evidence of originality;
- adequacy of scientific background;
- quality of research endeavors or publications to date, if any;
- commitment to health-oriented research; and
- need for further research experience and training.

Any related comments that you may wish to provide would be welcomed. These references will be used by PHS committees of consultants in assessing candidates.

Complete the report in English on 8-1/2 x 11" sheets of paper. Return your reference report to the candidate sealed in the envelope *as soon as possible* and in sufficient time so that the candidate can meet the application submission deadline. References must be submitted with the application.

We have asked the candidate to provide you with a self-addressed envelope with the following words in the front bottom corner: "**DO NOT OPEN—PHS USE ONLY.**" Candidates are not to open the references. Under the Privacy Act of 1974, RCA candidates may request personal information contained in their records, including this reference. Thank you for your assistance.